

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5 - 19 and 22 - 28 are in this application. Claims 1 - 5, 7, 8, 10 - 14 and 25 are presented for consideration. Claims 1, 5, 8, 12 and 13 have been amended, claims 2, 3 and 4 have been cancelled and new claims 26, 27 and 28 have been added.

The newly added dependent claims, are considered to be drawn to species 1, Figs. 2 and 3.

The specification, claims and drawings have been amended to address the Examiner's rejections, incorporate the Examiner's suggestions, and to place the application in better form. The claims have also been amended to further highlight and more clearly point out the important features of the invention.

It is Applicant's position that the new title is descriptive of the present invention, and if the Examiner has any alternative wording, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative to discuss the title. The Examiner has indicated that claim 13 was withdrawn from further consideration for depending upon claim 9 which is a non-elected claim. Applicant acknowledges that claim 13 depends from a non-elected claim, and claim 13 has been amended to depend from claim 1. It is Applicant's position that claim 13 as now amended is drawn to an elected invention.

In paragraph 2 of the Examiner's Office Action, the Examiner indicates that the election requirement was traversed in paper no. 11. Applicant assumes that by paper no. 11 the Examiner is referring to the Amendment and Supplement Response of September 19, 1997. Applicant has reviewed the communication of September 19, and

finds no statement that Applicant has traversed the Examiner's election requirement. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate that the requirement has not been traversed.

The Examiner requires that a copy of the references listed on pages 2 and 3 of the present application be submitted. Applicant notes that these references were submitted to the U.S. Patent Office on September 20, 1996 in an Information Disclosure Statement. It is Applicant's position that these references therefore do not need to be submitted again. If the Examiner requires additional copies of these references, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative by telephone.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful reading of the specification and claims, and for providing suggestions.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 - 5, 8, 10 and 25 as being anticipated by the French Patent '769.

Applicant has reviewed the French Patent, and has revised claim 1 to include the feature of the cavity shown in the drawings, and described in the specification by reference numeral 36. Claim 1 sets forth that the end portion defines a cavity with an opening asymmetrically positioned with respect to a longitudinal center axis of the contact means. The contact means is represented in the figures by reference numeral 24. As one can clearly see from Figs. 2 and 3, the cavity 36 is not symmetrical, nor coaxial, with a longitudinal center of the contact means 24. Since the French Patent '769 does not teach nor suggest an asymmetrical opening with respect to a center axis

of an end portion, the French Patent cannot anticipate all of the features of newly amended claim 1. Newly amended claim 1 therefore cannot be anticipated by the French Patent.

A review of the French Patent, shows that any opening in an end portion of a contact means is symmetrical with a center axis, and coaxial with that center axis. It is only the present invention which shows and describes an opening of a cavity 36 that is asymmetrical, and therefore the French Patent cannot cause claim 1 to be considered obvious.

Dependent claim 26 sets forth that the opening of the cavity is spaced from the longitudinal center axis. In the French Patent, and the other cited references, any opening clearly includes a center axis of the moving bolt. Since the opening set forth in claim 26 is spaced from the longitudinal axis, the position of the opening in claim 26 is clearly different from any of the references, and claim 26 further defines over the references.

Claims 27 and 28 set forth that the cavity is positioned asymmetrically, and that the cavity is spaced from the longitudinal center axis. This further emphasizes the difference in the position of the cavity of the present invention, and further causes claims 27 and 28 to define over the references.

Claim 5 sets forth that the contact means rotates about the longitudinal longitudinal center axis. None of the references teach nor suggest an opening asymmetrical with a longitudinal center axis, especially where a contact means rotates

about the longitudinal center axis. Claim 5 therefore further differs from the references.

Claim 8 sets forth that the edges of this asymmetrical opening form the cutting surface. None of the references teach nor suggest an asymmetrical opening, and therefore cannot teach nor suggest edges of an asymmetrical opening forming a cutting surface. Claim 8 therefore further defines over the combination of the references.

Claim 10 sets forth that the contact means has a radially and axially extending cutting edge. The Examiner has equated the radially extending cutting edge with element B1 of the French Patent. Applicant has reviewed element B1 of the French Patent, and notes that B1 is not a radially extending edge. Instead B1 extends circumferentially, and does not have a radial component. Therefore element B1 of the French Patent cannot anticipate the radial cutting edge of claim 10.

The Examiner has equated the axially extending cutting edge of claim 10 with element B2 of the French Patent. Element B2 of the French Patent is not a cutting edge, but instead is a bore. The bore B2 in the French Patent does not have any edges which extend axially, and/or are cutting edges. Therefore, the feature of the axially extending cutting edge of claim 10 cannot be anticipated by the French Patent. Claim 10 therefore further defines over the combination of the references.

Claim 25 sets forth that the knife edge protrusions are movably connected to the body and movable into the recess. The Examiner has equated the knife edge protrusions with element F of the French Patent. Applicant has reviewed the French

Patent, and finds no teaching nor suggestion that element F is movably connected to the body A and movable into the recess A2. Claim 25 therefore sets forth features which are not taught nor suggested in the French Patent, and therefore cannot be anticipated by the French Patent.

The asymmetrical opening set forth in the claims is very important in that it greatly facilitates the cutting of the insulation when the contact means is rotated as it moves into the recess. When this feature is combined with the filling of the cavity 6 with jointing compound, the effort needed to remove the insulation is greatly reduced, and the removed insulation is forced into the cavity in such a manner as to force out the jointing compound and spread the jointing compound around the electrical connection which is formed. The asymmetrical location of the opening, therefore, is made beneficial in that it allows easy removal of the insulation, and spreading of the joint compound. This feature makes for easier operation, and higher reliability. It is Applicant's position that these improvements are worthy of patent protection.

At this time Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application, and based on the above amendments and remarks, respectfully solicits allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted
for Applicant,

By: 

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McGLEW AND TUTTLE

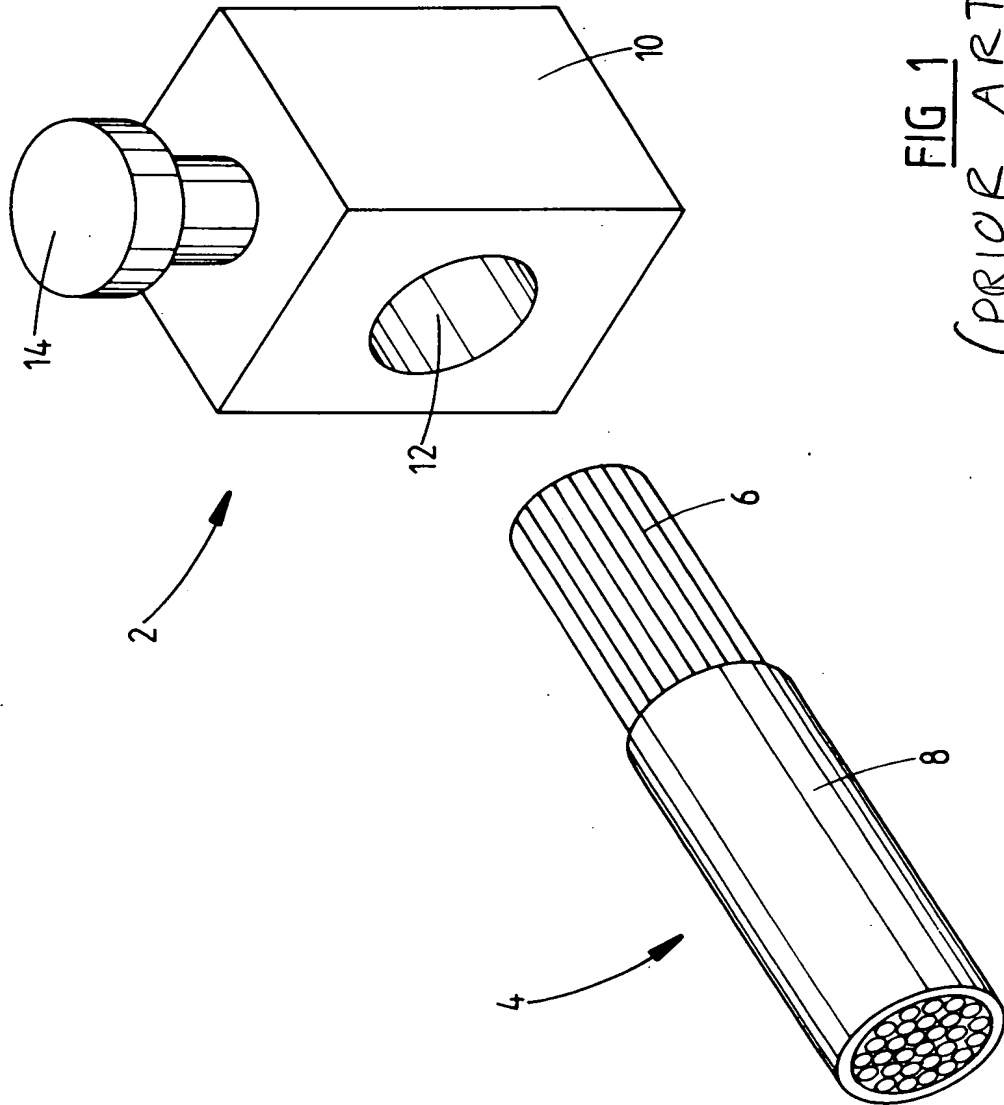


FIG 1
(PRIOR ART)

OK
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2/7

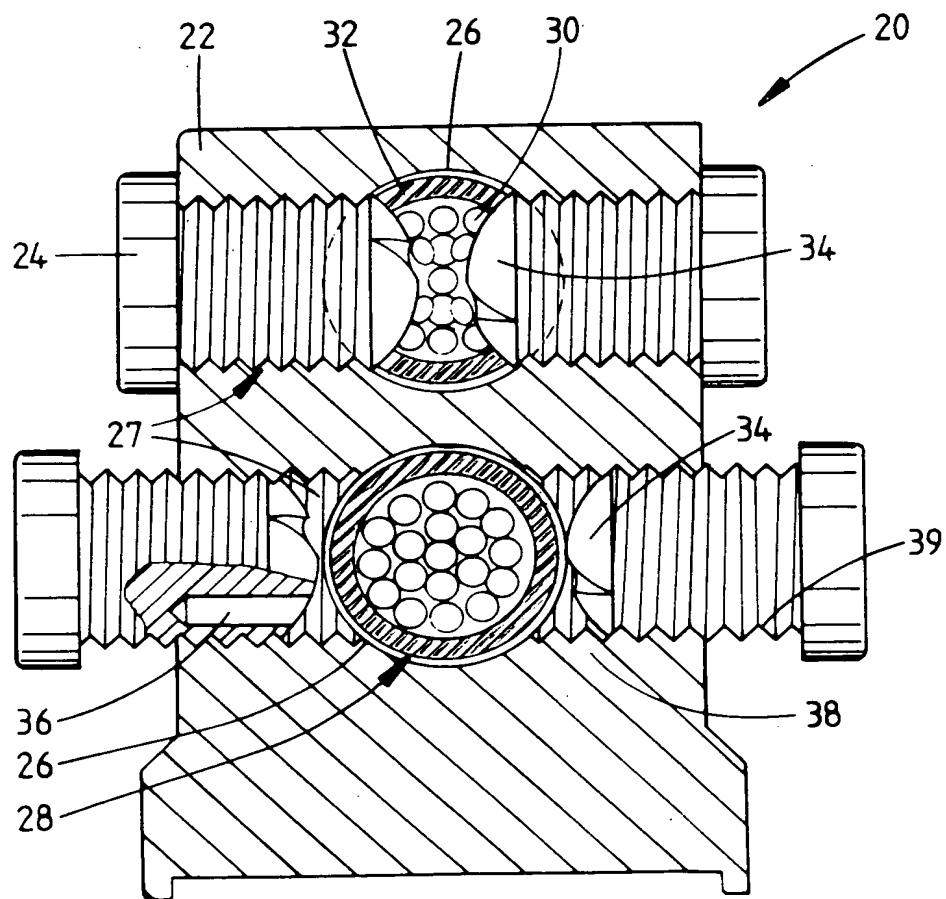


FIG 2

Not OK
tdc
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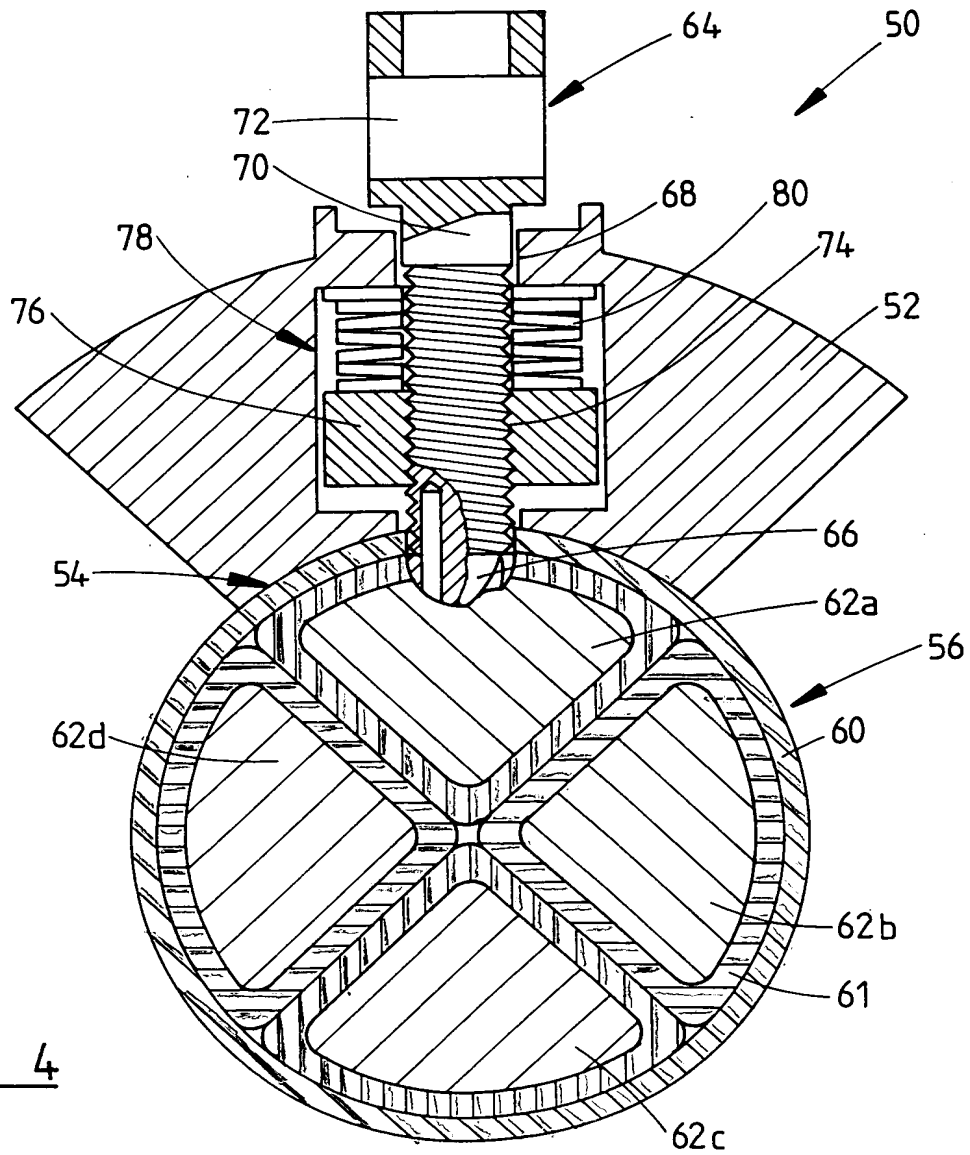
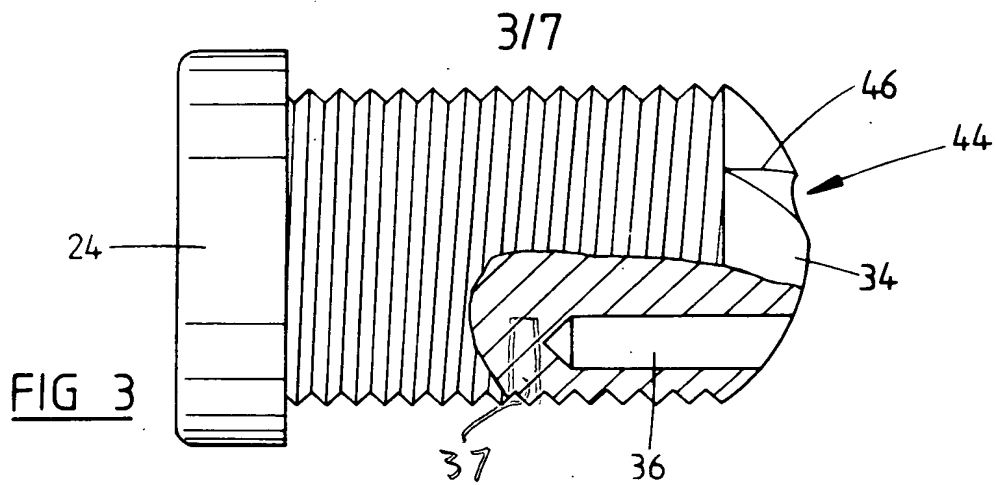
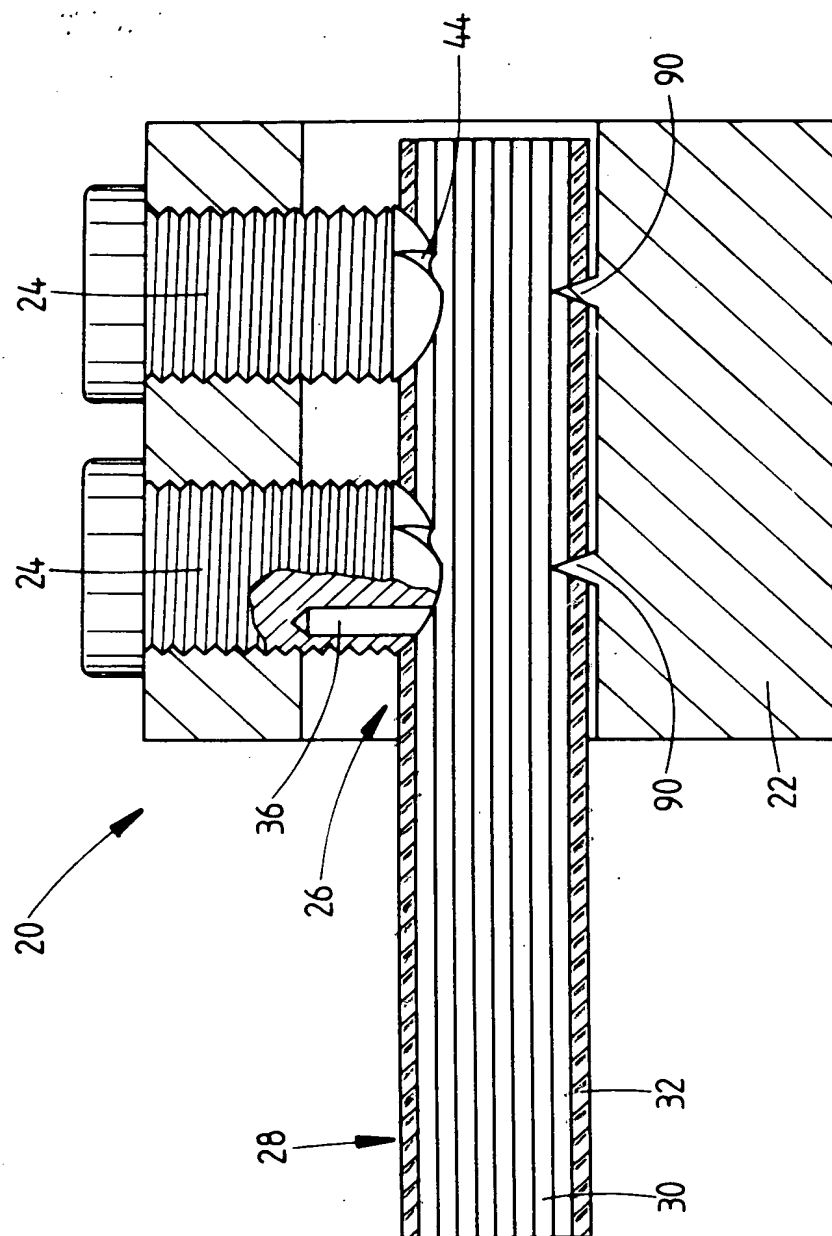


FIG 4

OK
w/r



OK
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